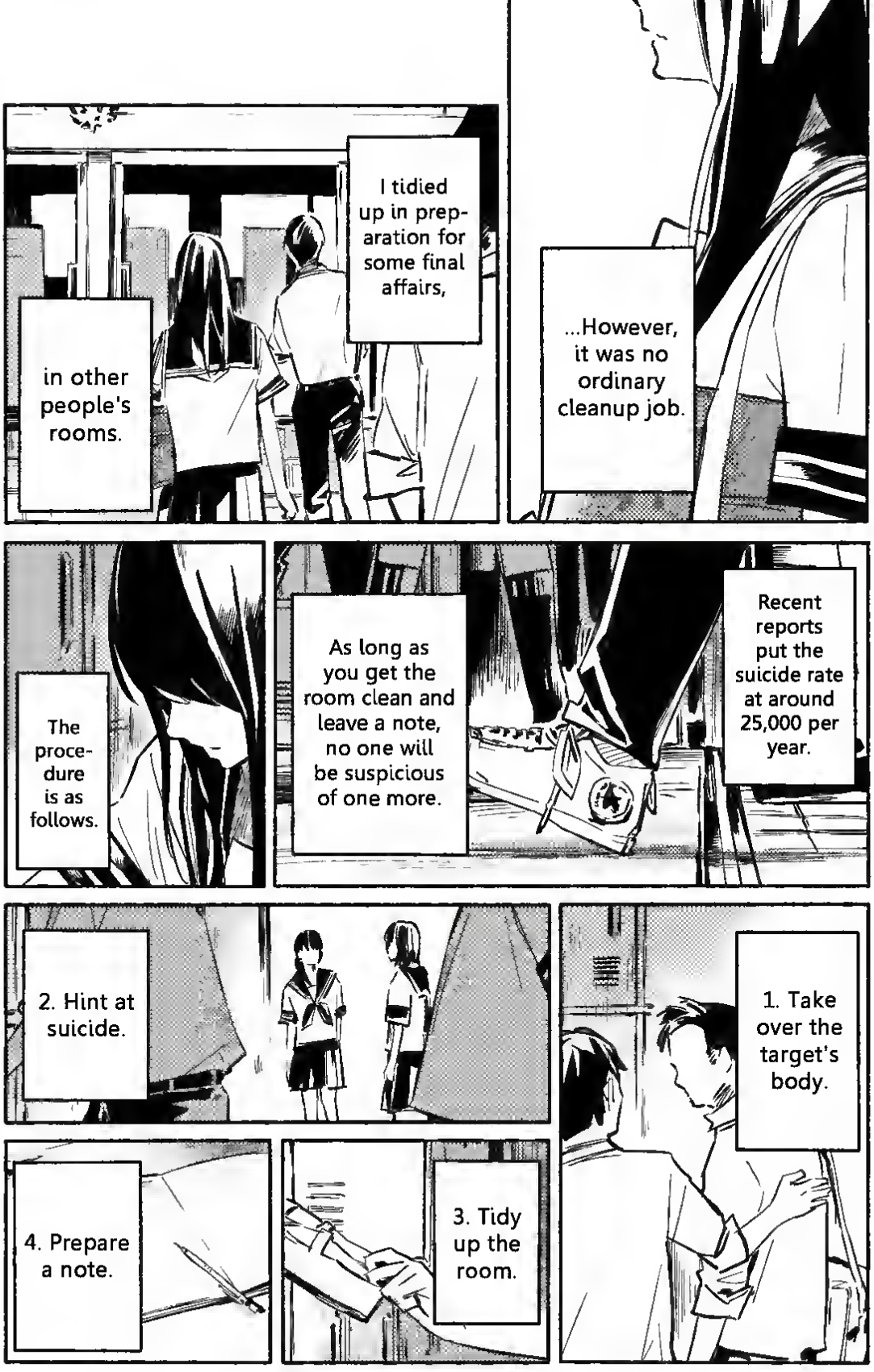
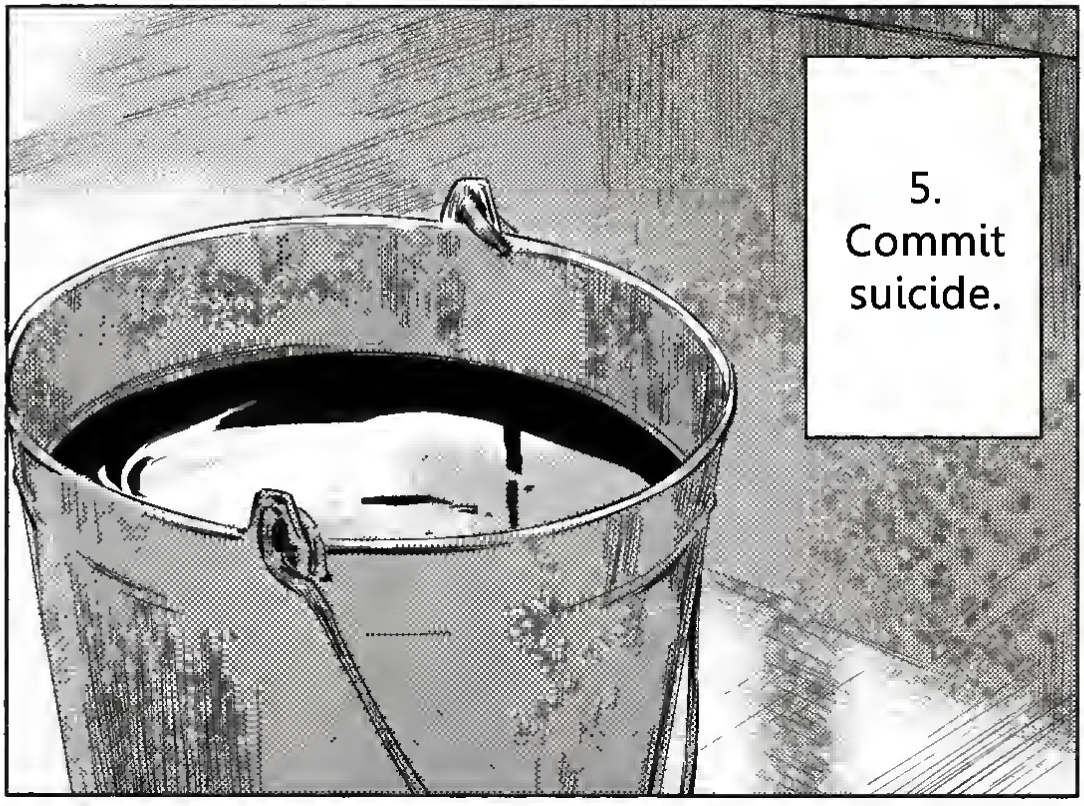
“Azure and Claude”

Manga / loundraw Original / Sugaru Miaki


I tidied up in preparation for some final affairs,
in other people's rooms.
...However, it was no ordinary cleanup job.
The procedure is as follows.
As long as you get the room clean and leave a note, no one will be suspicious of one more.
Recent reports put the suicide rate at around 25,000 per year.
2. Hint at suicide.
1. Take over the target's body.
4. Prepare a note.
3. Tidy up the room.



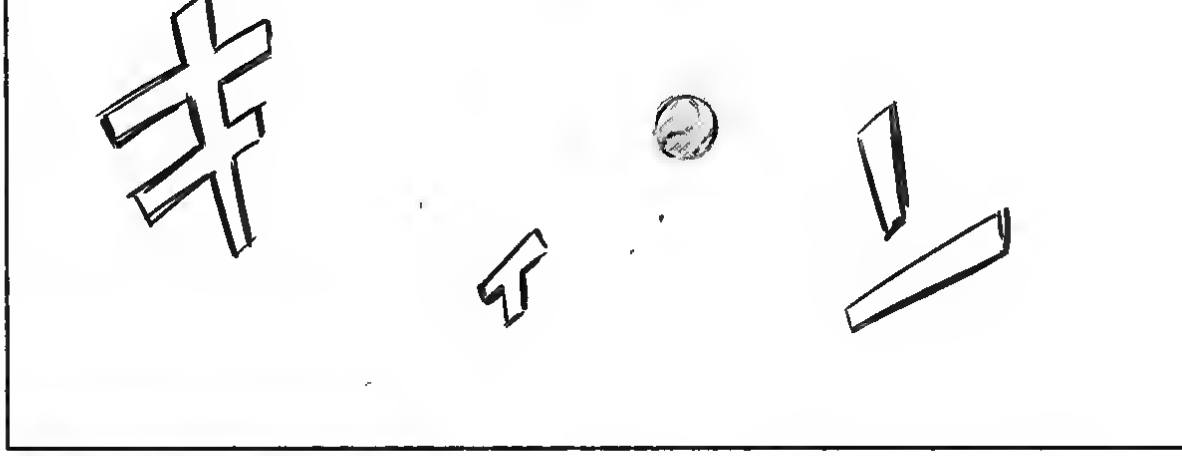
a
Cleaner.

And for
that
reason,

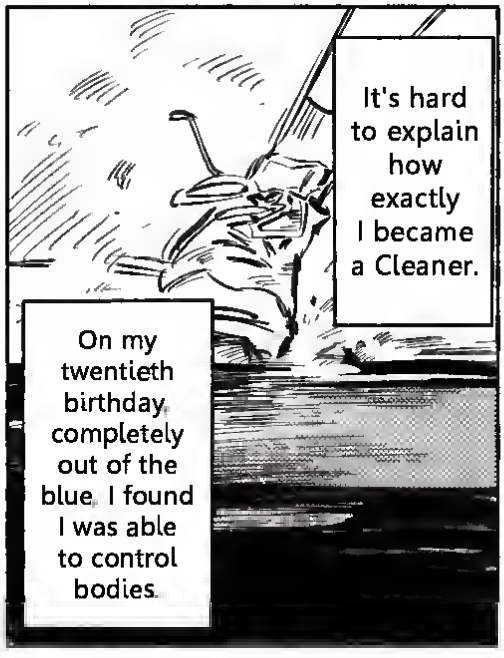
if asked my
profession,
I would call
myself...

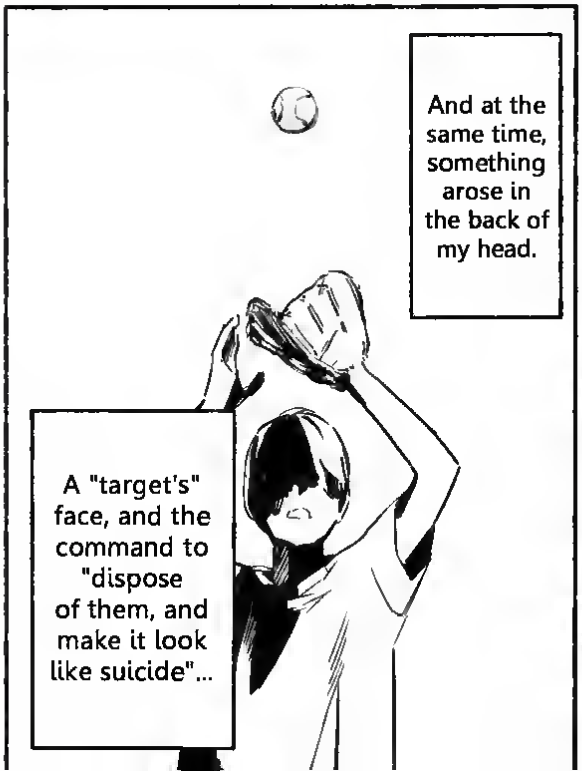
...which
was, of
course,

true in
more ways
than one.



Since obtaining the ability to control other people's bodies,
I had thus far dealt with six targets.


It's hard to explain how exactly I became a Cleaner.
On my twentieth birthday, completely out of the blue, I found I was able to control bodies.

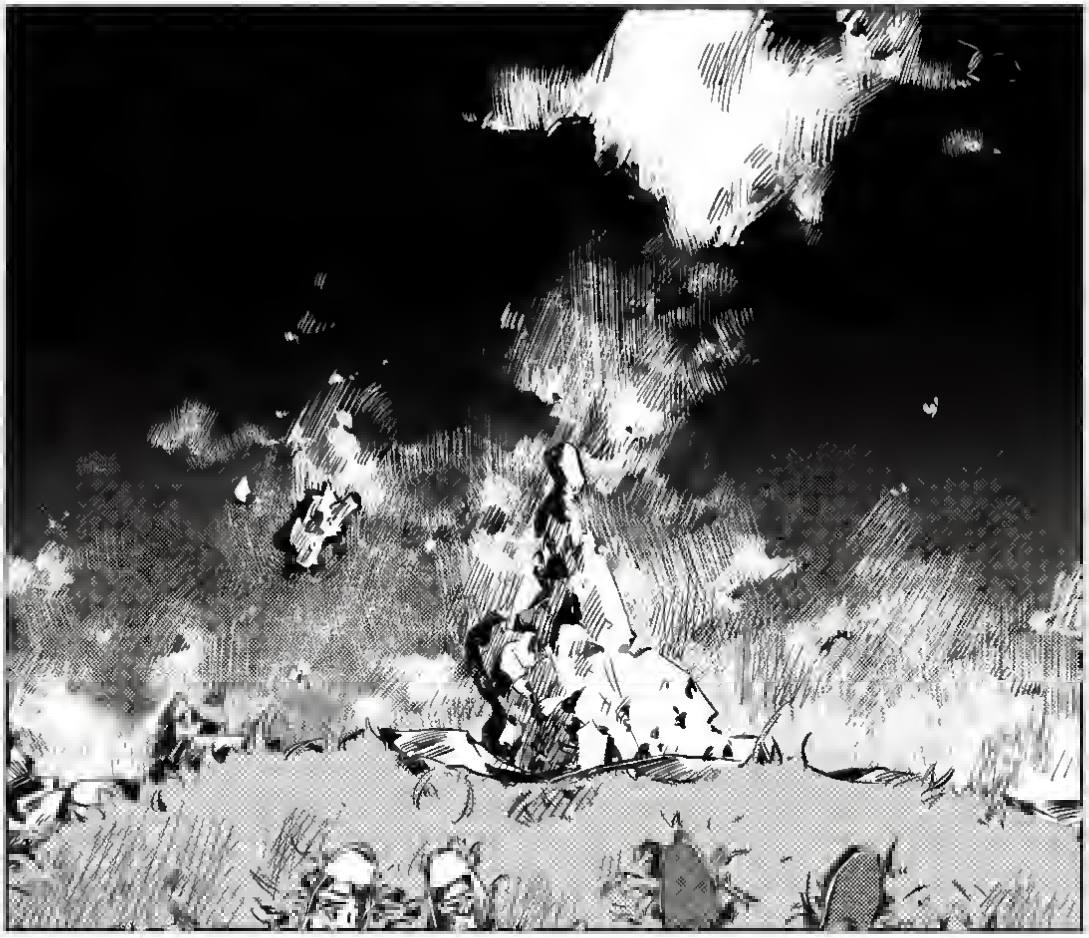

And at the same time, something arose in the back of my head.
A "target's" face, and the command to "dispose of them, and make it look like suicide"...

pass
パス
And then there was the seventh target.
It happened on a sunny day in July.

I'd never had such a young and harmless-looking target before.

To say the least.

I was surprised upon learning she was my next target.

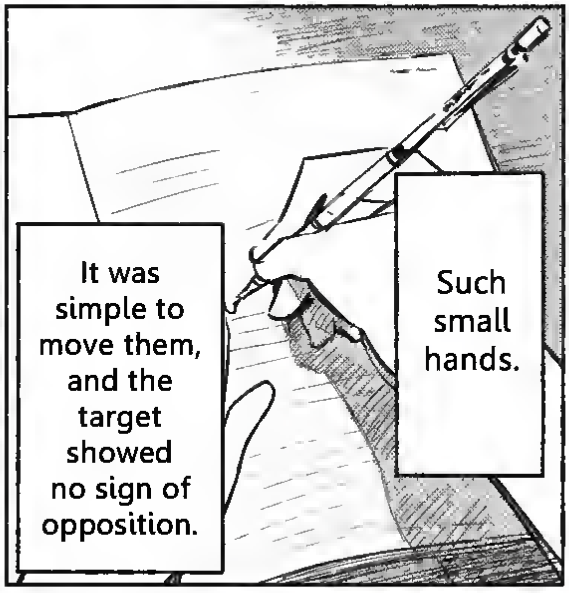


So delicate, she might break if you pushed her.
So pale, she might stain if you touched her.
A girl with nervous eyes.
looking out at something far in the distance.
And always
That's...

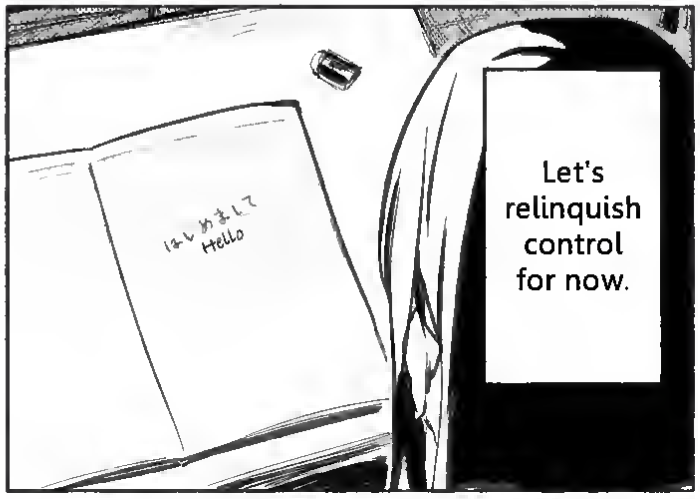
That's the kind of girl she was...

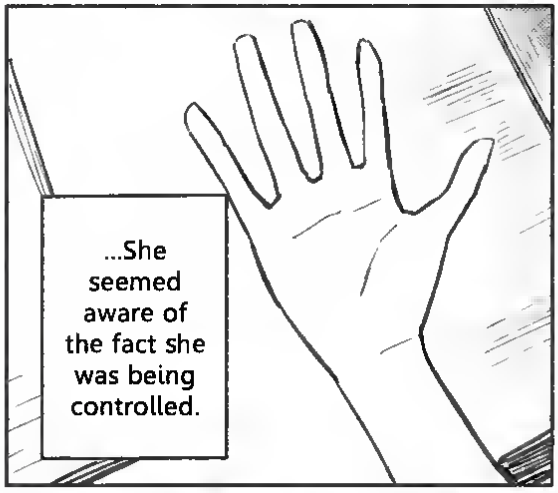
サラ サラ

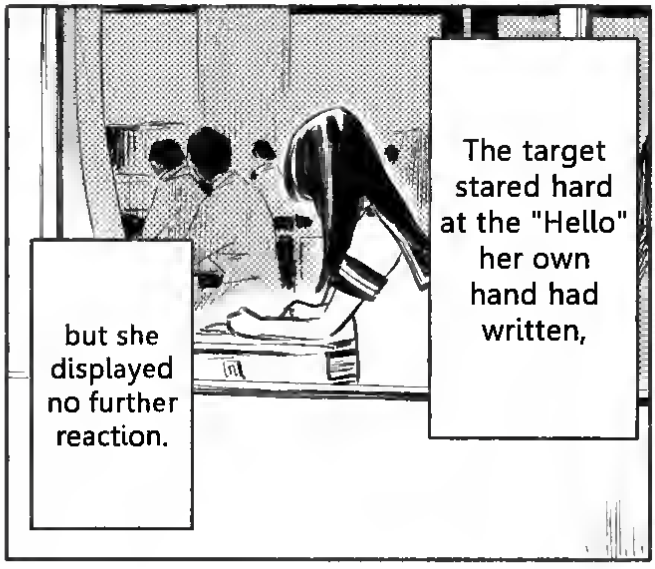
ピク
... Now.
Let's start from step 1 and control the target.


It was simple to move them, and the target showed no sign of opposition.
Such small hands.

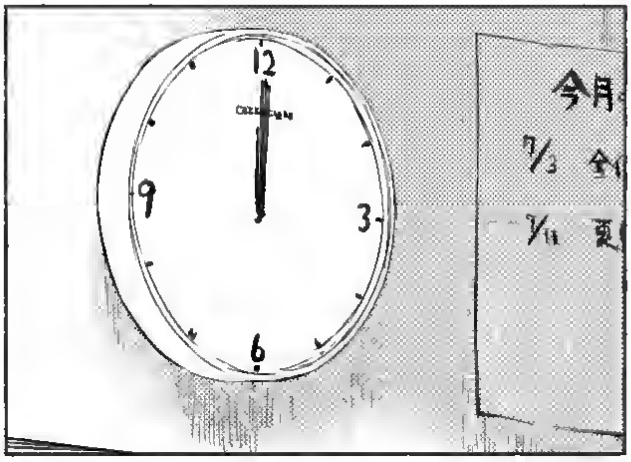
はじめまして
Hello
サラ

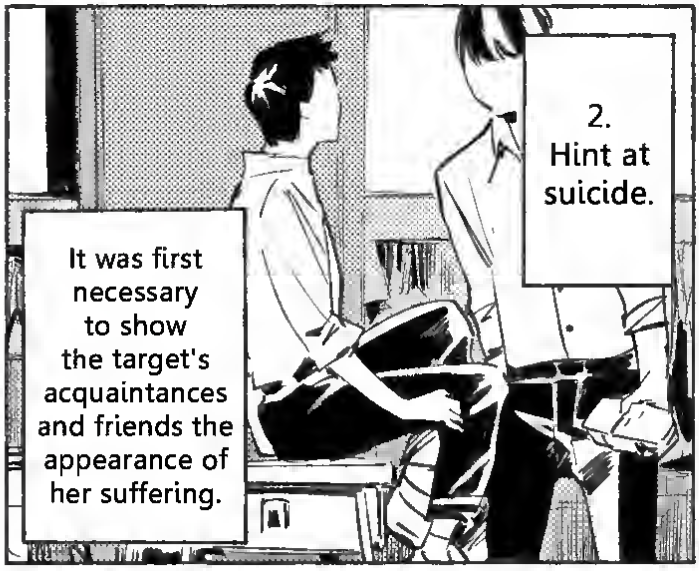

はじめまして
Hello
Let's relinquish control for now.


...She seemed aware of the fact she was being controlled.

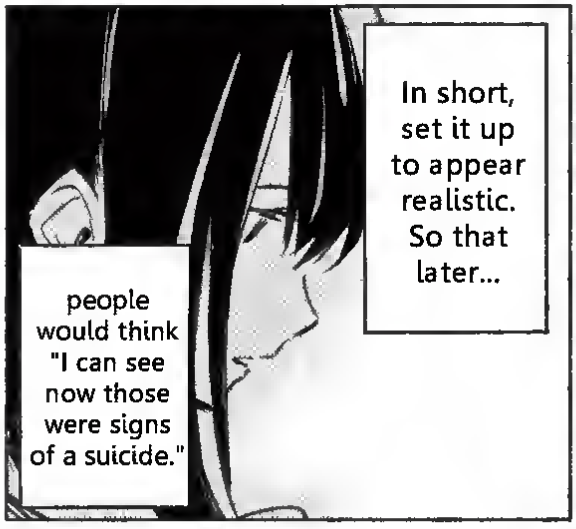

The target stared hard at the "Hello" her own hand had written,
but she displayed no further reaction.

ガヤ
The lecture ended,
and lunch break began.
ガヤ


12
9
3
6
今月

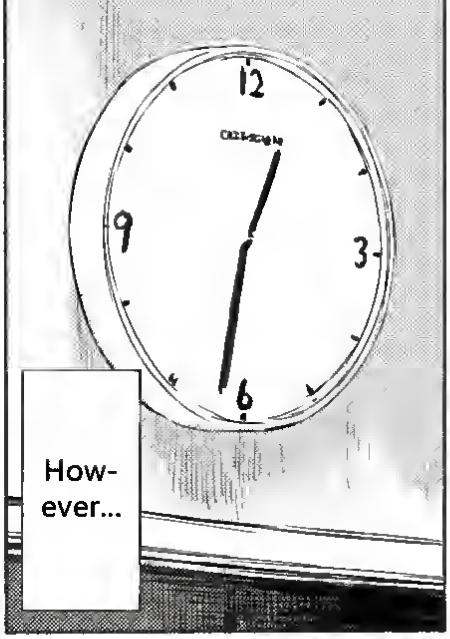

2.
Hint at suicide.
It was first necessary to show the target's acquaintances and friends the appearance of her suffering.

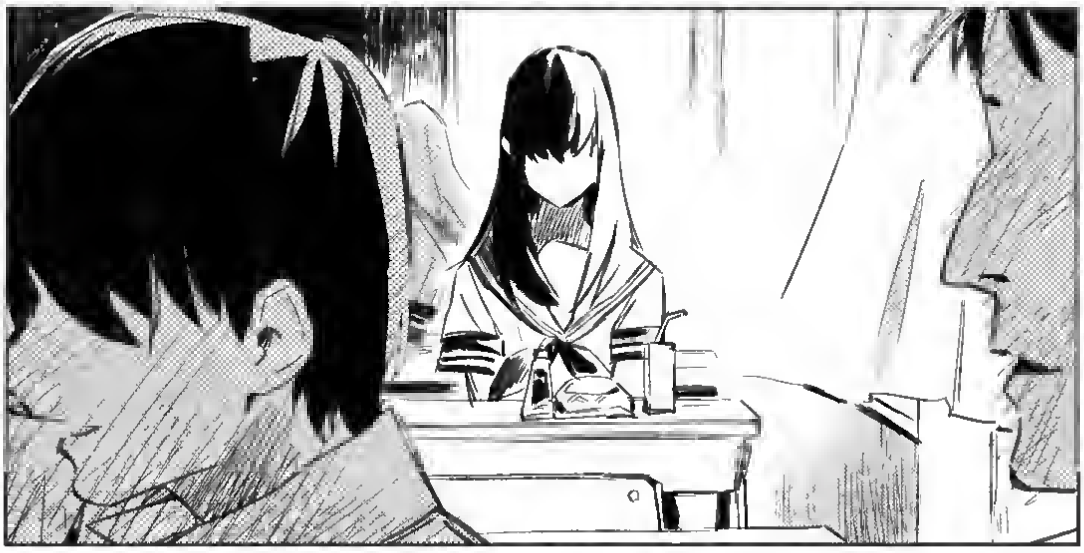
...This is when things would really begin.


In short, set it up to appear realistic. So that later...
people would think "I can see now those were signs of a suicide."

Sigh more often,

say things that weren't normal.
mutter com-plaints,

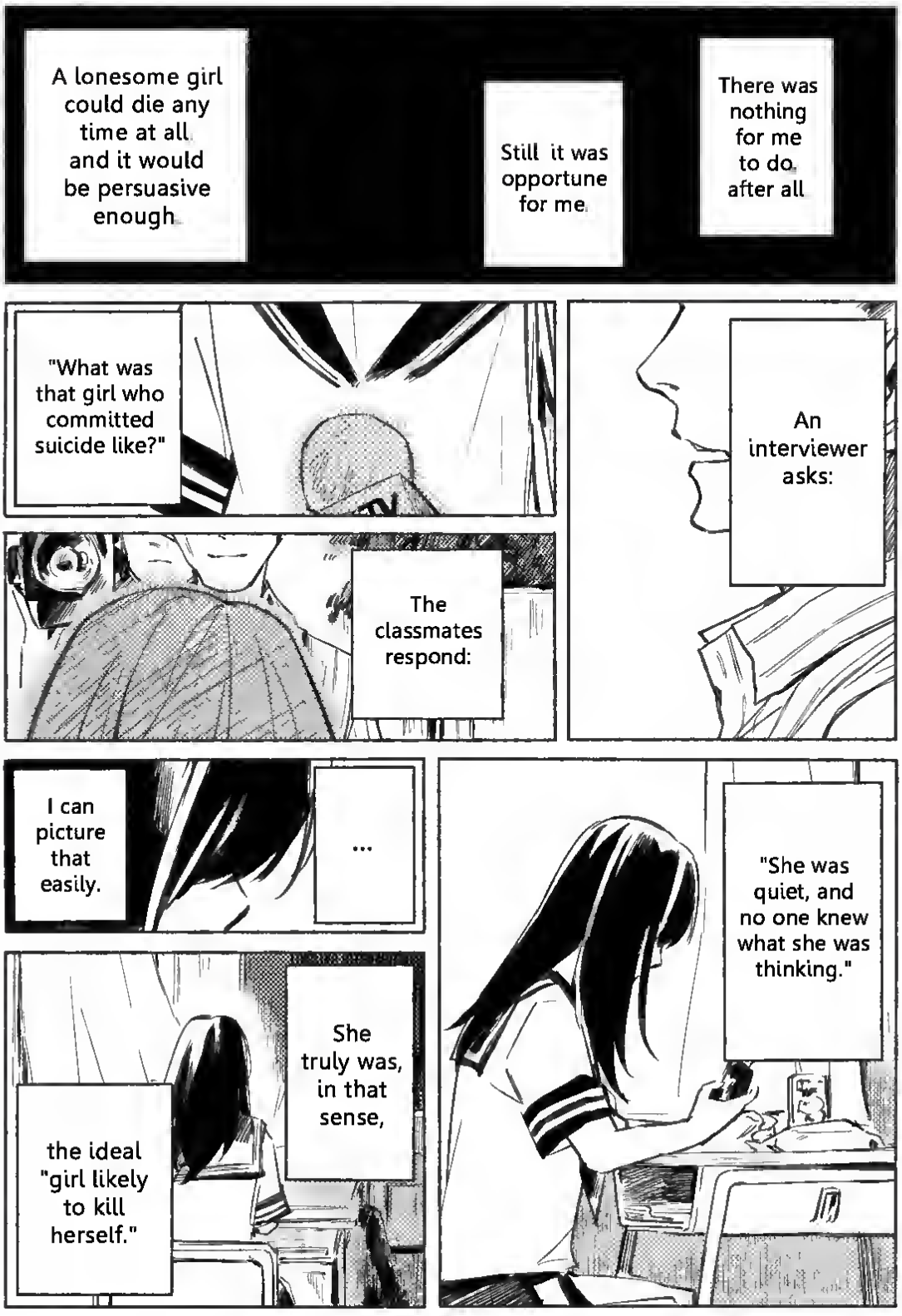

How-
ever...



that she was alone in this classroom.
This is where I finally noticed

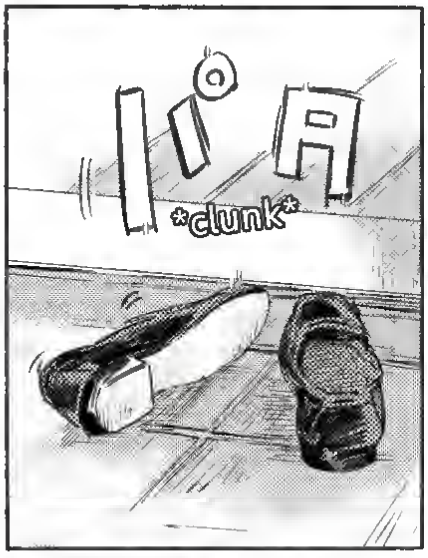
...Thirty minutes passed, and no students came to talk to the target.

モグ
munch
No one so much as looked in her direction.
It wasn't even that no one came to talk.
I decided to leave her alone for a while.

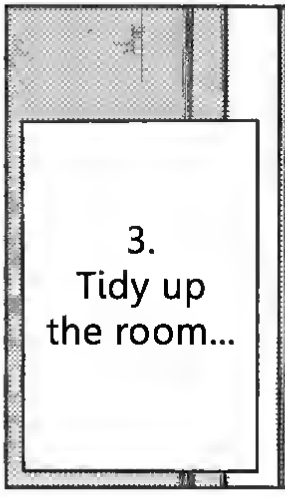

A lonesome girl could die any time at all and it would be persuasive enough.
Still it was opportune for me.
There was nothing for me to do, after all.
"What was that girl who committed suicide like?"
An interviewer asks:
The classmates respond:
I can picture that easily.
...
She truly was, in that sense,
the ideal "girl likely to kill herself."
"She was quiet, and no one knew what she was thinking."

3-6
This target should be easier than I thought.

ガチャ
click
She headed straight home, taking no detours.

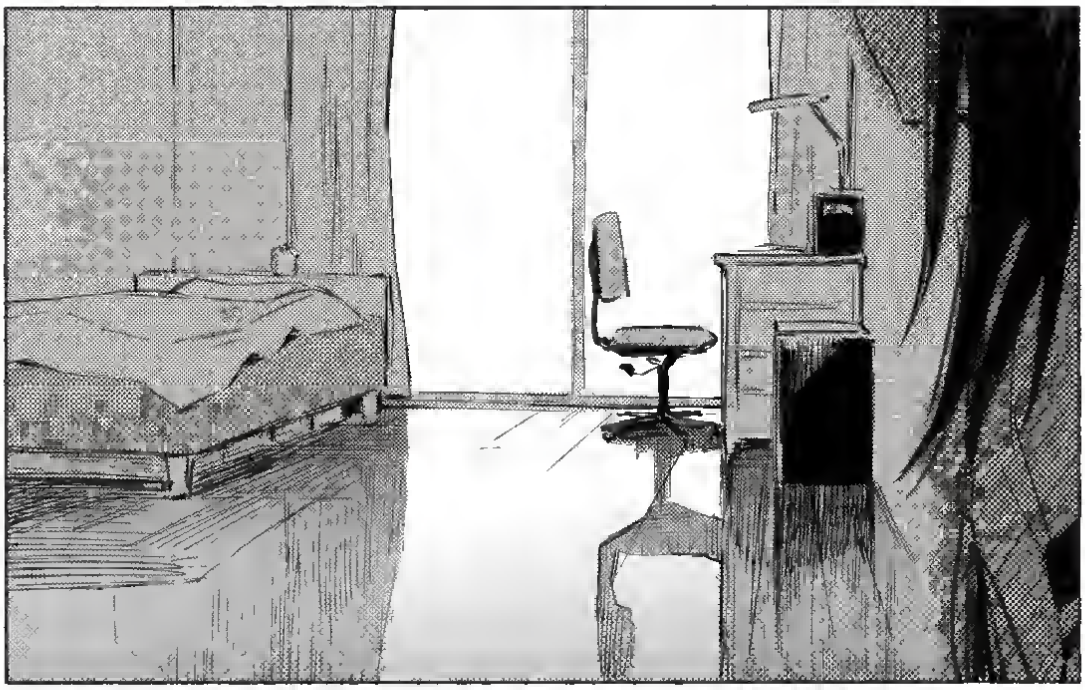

パタ
clunk

I'll take over her here.


3.
Tidy up the room...

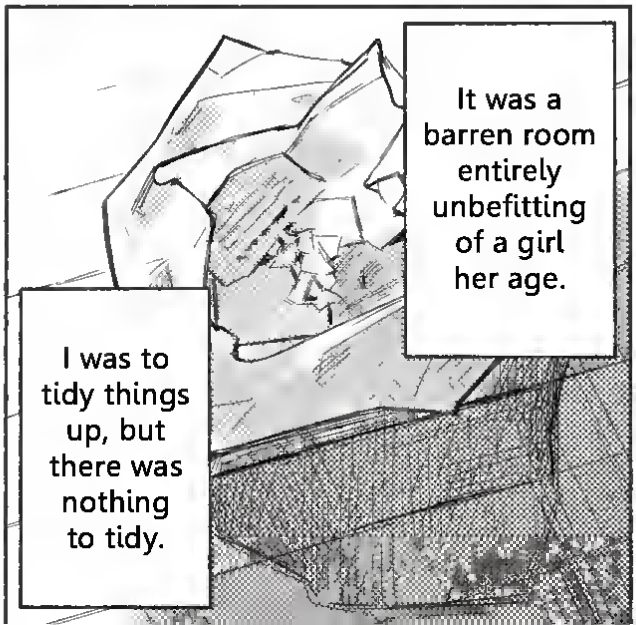
ガチャ
click

Next up is the most difficult step.



My first impression was, "What IS this?"

shut


It was a barren room entirely unbefitting of a girl her age.
I was to tidy things up, but there was nothing to tidy.

No magazines,
no books,
no television,
no stuffed animals,
nothing at all.
clatter
The only trash was some beer bottles, which I began to put in a bag,
but they seemed to aid in presenting this as a suicide, so I put them back.
scatter
On the other hand, there were a few things that indicated her humanity.

Definitely the tastes of a gloomy person.
JOPLIN
Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin, Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith.

There was one other thing I found.

Like the bottles, the CDs and plant seemed to help set the mood, so I decided to leave them be.
A plain decorative plant with an unusual pattern.

My work had never gone so smoothly before.
ドサ
fwump
English-Japanese Dictionary
英和辞典
It seemed better not to try anything fancy.
There would be no problem committing suicide right this moment.
界史
ld History
rrrip
Step 4...

...
That's probably the sort of thing she'd go with.
自分が嫌いなので死にます
I hate myself, so I'm going to die.
...Well, all that's left...
is to die.

Wait.

pch
Hgh...
This was a surprise.
The target made her first oppo-sition.
And with unbeliev-able force, at that.
...But I felt a little relieved.
Everything had been going disgust-ingly well.
"Now, beg for your life," I thought.
I felt certain that no matter what the target did, I could handle it with no issue.
Yet I never expec-ted...

Um...
That this
smack
smack
would end up being my final job.
I have a request.